

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-01 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SAJ-01 L-02 EUR-10 DRC-01

DODE-00 PM-03 SAM-01 IO-03 PRS-01 USIA-04 AID-10 /083 W

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R 050257Z JUL 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2039

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1126

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US CH

SUBJECT: SENATOR JACKSON'S CONVERSATION WITH PRC OFFICIALS

1. FOLLOWING USLO JULY 4 RECEPTION, DC HOLDRIDGE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MEET PRIVATELY WITH LUCIAN PYE AND DWIGHT PERKINS, MEMBERS OF SENATOR JACKSON'S PARTY AND HIS PRINCIPAL ADVISORS ON PRC AFFAIRS. PYE AND PERKINS WERE QUITE UNCOMMUNICATIVE CONCERNING SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN SENATOR JACKSON'S CONVERSATIONS WITH PRC VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-P'ING AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CH'IAO KUAN-HUA, SAYING THAT ANY COMMENTS WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM SENATOR JACKSON HIMSELF.

2. HOWEVER ON SUBJECT OF U.S.-PRC RELATIONS PYE AND PERKINS WERE RELATIVELY FORTHCOMING. THEY MENTIONED THAT CHINESE WERE "VERY POSITIVE" WITH RESPECT TO PRC RELATIONS WITH U.S., SPOKE IN FAVORABLE AND COMPLIMENTARY TERMS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER AND DID NOT INDICATE ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN CHINESE DEALINGS WITH THE U.S. PYE EXPRESSED OPINION THAT MORE CONCERN APPEARS TO EXIST ON U.S. SIDE THAN ON CHINESE SIDE REGARDING CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS.

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3. PYE IN ADDITION TOUCHED ON SUBJECT OF SINO-SOVIET

RELATIONS, COMMENTING THAT HE FOUND THE CHINESE QUITE RELAXED ON THIS SCORE, ESPECIALLY COMPARED TO SITUATION DURING HIS LAST VISIT TO PEKING 1 1/2 YEARS AGO. CHINESE DID NOT APPEAR TO BE ANTICIPATING ANY IMMEDIATE SOVIET ATTACK, DID NOT DWELL UPON THE ALLEGED GRAVITY OF THE SOVIET THREAT, BUT RATHER REPEATED THE LINE USED WITH OTHER RECENT FOREIGN VISITORS TO EFFECT THAT THE SOVIETS WERE "FEINTING TO THE EAST IN ORDER TO CONCENTRATE AGAINST THE WEST". THUS, WESTERN EUROPE AND NOT CHINA WAS THE DANGER AREA. ACCORDING TO PYE, CHINESE DID NOT EVEN REFER TO "PERFIDIOUSNESS" OF SOVIET POLICY TOWARDS CHINA AND OTHER COUNTRIES. PYE WAS AT A LOSS TO ACCOUNT FOR SHIFT IN CHINESE ATTITUDE SINCE HIS PREVIOUS VISIT WHEN THEY SEEMED TO BELIEVE A SOVIET ATTACK WAS IMMINENT, AND ASKED FOR REASON WHY; RESPONSE WAS SIMPLY THAT PRC POSITION CHANGED AS ACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGED. BRUCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMITY, CODELS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, SINO SOVIET DISPUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PEKING01126
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740178-0324
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740773/aaaackcc.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUL 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENATOR JACKSON'S CONVERSATION WITH PRC OFFICIALS
TAGS: PFOR, OREP, US, CH, UR, (JACKSON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005